



# TOFIELD & DISTRICT

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COME TO







# TOFIELD

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**T**HE TOWN OF TOFIELD, in common with many other towns, was brought into existence by the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

The name "Tofield" was first applied to the postoffice, established some sixteen years ago on a farm of George Cookson, Sr., a mile east of the present townsite. It was named in honor of Dr. J. H. Tofield, who is still a resident of the town.

In September 1908, possession was taken of the present townsite, and a month later Tofield was incorporated as a village, and in October, 1909, it was incorporated as a town, the first on the G. T. P. in Alberta. About this time a tri-weekly freight and passenger service was inaugurated on the G. T. P. since which time the town has steadily grown.

Tofield is the centre of one of the richest farming districts in Alberta, drawing trade from all directions.

In addition to its agricultural resources, Tofield has large coal areas with three mines in active operation. This coal is over laid with clay which burns a superior quality of brick. In June, 1912 the town demonstrated the presence of natural gas in large quantities, and at present writing another well is being sunk to determine and test our field.



TYPICAL FARM SCENE IN TOFIELD DISTRICT

## MIXED FARMING

While Central Alberta, and especially the Tofield District can, and does produce splendid crops of oats and barley, aggregating millions of bushels annually, the conditions are peculiarly favourable for mixed farming, and it is the advantage in this direction which renders Central Alberta more desirable than other portions of the west. It is generally recognized by our farmers that where conditions are so favourable for growing grain, hay, roots and vegetables for the production of fodder crops, and for the cheap handling of cattle, all on the same farm, better results can be obtained from mixed farming, under which the quality of the land improves, than from exclusive grain growing, under which the land must inevitably deteriorate.

Nature has so liberally provided the district with streams and ponds, rich, luscious pasture, as well as an abundance of wild hay, that it would be unwise not to turn these advantages to account by keeping stock on every farm. The enormous stacks of straw left on the fields after threshing provide fodder of considerable value for a large number of stock. Cattle especially, therefore, can be wintered at a trifling cost with exceedingly profitable results. Nowhere can better cattle be raised, and at less cost. It is generally considered unnecessary to stable growing cattle, and these are usually allowed to run at large during winter, about the great strawstacks left in the fields, which form their principal ration. They also find shelter in the timber and scrub about the farm.

Dairying can be handled cheaper in Central Alberta than probably in any other portion of the continent. Notwithstanding the fact that cattle can be fed and handled very cheaply, the prices obtained by dairy farming in this district are usually higher than those obtained elsewhere.

Throughout the district creameries have been established, and exceedingly satisfactory prices are received for the output. In addition to the creameries, Edmonton, the commercial metropolis, furnishes a ready market at all times for dairy products, at handsome prices.



CUTTING GRAIN IN THE TOFIELD DISTRICT

## SOIL

The general character of the soil in Western Canada, and especially Central Alberta, is very well described by Professor Shaw, who has made a very careful and thorough study of it.

"The first foot of soil here is its greatest natural heritage. It is worth more than all the mines in the mountains from Alaska to Mexico, and more than all the forests from the United States to the Arctic Sea, vast as they are. And next in value to this heritage is the three feet of soil which lies underneath the first. The sub-soil is only secondary in value to the soil, for unless the former be of good value there is a proportionate neutralization of the latter. The worth of a soil and a sub-soil cannot be measured in acres. the measure of its value is the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash which it contains; in other words, its producing power. Viewed from this standpoint these lands are a heritage of untold value. One acre of average soil in this district is worth twenty acres of average soil along the Atlantic seaboard. The man who tills the former can grow twenty successive crops without much diminution in the fields, whereas the person who tills the latter, in order to grow a single remunerative crop, must pay the vendor of fertilizers as much for materials to fertilize an acre as would buy an acre here."

In any district one will find local variations in conditions, but generally speaking the soil is of a rich, black, vegetable loam, varying from twelve to thirty inches in depth, in places this changes to a somewhat sandy form still black, in other places to a light chocolate-colored loam, and occasionally areas occur of light soil of comparatively low fertility, but which would be considered pretty fair land in most countries. Such areas are of limited extent however, and the prevailing character of the soil is a deep, black loam of great fertility. The sub-soil is most generally clay.

The fertility of this soil is unquestioned, and particularly in growing oats has won fame for itself. This soil grows a natural grass, which is cut and cured for hay, upon which stock is fattened during the winter. Horses are sometimes allowed to rustle for themselves during the winter, and will come out in good shape in the spring. The land is brushy here and there, with occasional poplar groves, and presents a park like appearance, which, if you like the open prairie, makes you feel at home and well pleased with life.



RESIDENCE OF A. J. H. MCCAULEY



A BUSINESS STREET IN TOFIELD

## CLIMATE

The climate is characterized by long sunshiny days in summer (being 16 to 18 hours long) and bright clear days in winter, there being only sufficient snowfall for sleighing. Central Alberta is certainly the most favoured section of the entire prairie west on either side of the international boundary, so far as climate is concerned. People who have not experienced a Central Alberta winter are usually under the impression that it is more severe than that of the Eastern Provinces, or than that of the Northern States. Nothing could be more erroneous than this impression. Nowhere East of the Rocky Mountains, except in places where it is much too hot in summer is there a more pleasant winter than in Central Alberta. On a typical cold winter day when the thermometer is at zero, no more clothing is needed than is worn in Toronto, Chicago, or New York, and so far from experiencing any particular discomfort one can not only walk or drive at this temperature with comfort, but with keen enjoyment. It is true there are low temperatures registered, but these dips are only of very occasional occurrences, and last for brief periods. It is impossible to form an opinion of this climate from temperature readings alone. Such records are no indication as to the desirability or otherwise of climate, unless account is taken of the delightful bright, dry, still atmosphere which accompanies low temperatures. The snowfall in this district is very light being considerably less than any other portion of the Dominion, except a portion of the Pacific Coast. The fall of snow rarely ever exceeds 12 inches in depth, and it is usually nearer 8 inches. There is no record of a snow blockade known in Central Alberta on our railroads.



## RAINFALL

No irrigation or dry farming methods are required here. The rainfall is ample and a luxuriant growth of cultivated crops and wild pasture and hay is always assured. Here again statistics are very misleading unless one understands attendant conditions. The explanation is that in the Tofield District there is a clay sub-soil which holds the moisture it receives, and consequently requires comparatively light rainfall, and also that nearly the whole rainfall for the year occurs during the growing season; May, June, and July.

During the driest time ever experienced here, there is a rich, luxuriant growth of pasture, green throughout the season.

The summers here are ideal for rapid growth of vegetation. Owing to the great length of the days (the sun shines for 18 hours a day in mid-summer) and the copious though not excessive rains together with the marvelous richness of soil, there takes place a rapidity of growth which can only be realized by those who have seen it. Though the days are hot, the heat is not oppressive, and prostration from heat is unknown. During the hottest weather the nights are cool.

The writer having been a native of the State of Texas, born and raised there, finds the climate and seasons here much preferable to the former, having spent seven years in this district, coming direct from the States. Having farmed and ranched here, he is in position to say, that no place that he has seen can equal this for a poor man to get a start in, and to the reader he would say, if you are contented where you are, stay, but if not, investigate these advantages here before locating elsewhere, and see for yourself. And to the young man he would say, no place has the advantages to offer that are here; come, see, be convinced, and stay; "I stayed."



A TOFIELD RESIDENCE



CUTTING GRAIN TWO MILES FROM TOFIELD

## CROPS

All ordinary crops, such as are usually grown elsewhere in the Eastern Provinces of Canada, or in the more Northerly or Central Western States, with the exception of tree fruits and corn, may be grown here, and generally with better results, greater yields being obtained with less labor and with greater certainty. It is a very difficult matter to give enquirers exact information as to what yields of various grains may be expected, as this depends to a very great extent upon the farmer himself, and the thoroughness with which he cultivates the soil. For a general way it may be said that in the Tofield District considerably larger yields may be expected than in any other portion of this continent with the expenditure of the same amount of labour.



FARM SCENE JUST SOUTH OF TOFIELD

The statistics compiled by the government show the average yields in Central Alberta for the last five years to be about as follows:—

Spring wheat	23	bushels to the acre
Winter wheat	25	" " " "
Oats	62	" " " "
Barley	36	" " " "

But it must be remembered that the Government figures cover every acre planted whether by good farmers or poor, and that in a new country the poor farmers always predominate. It must be understood that some seasons are better than others, but even in the worst seasons known highly satisfactory results were obtained throughout the district.

It is generally admitted that Central Alberta and the Tofield District produces the highest grade of oats that are grown on the American continent, and gives the biggest yields to the acre. Oats are commonly sent to the market that will be found to weigh anywhere from 38 to 46 lbs. to the measured bushel, and samples testing 50 lbs. are occasionally met with. Yields of 80 to 110 bushels and over to the acre are considered nothing out of the common. Besides big yields of oats of wonderful quality, very fine straw is furnished which makes valuable feed for stock.



WINTER STOCK SCENE ONE MILE SOUTH OF TOFIELD

Barley is extensively grown, and 30 to 50 bushels to the acre is obtained of exceptionally plump, heavy grain. There is a good market for this, but it is chiefly used for hog feed, for which it is excellent for fattening.

Ordinary root crops have proved exceptionally successful. The mangel-wurzel, sugar-mangel and rutabaga are grown together with turnips, carrots, parsnips, etc., and are used very successfully by dairy men as food.

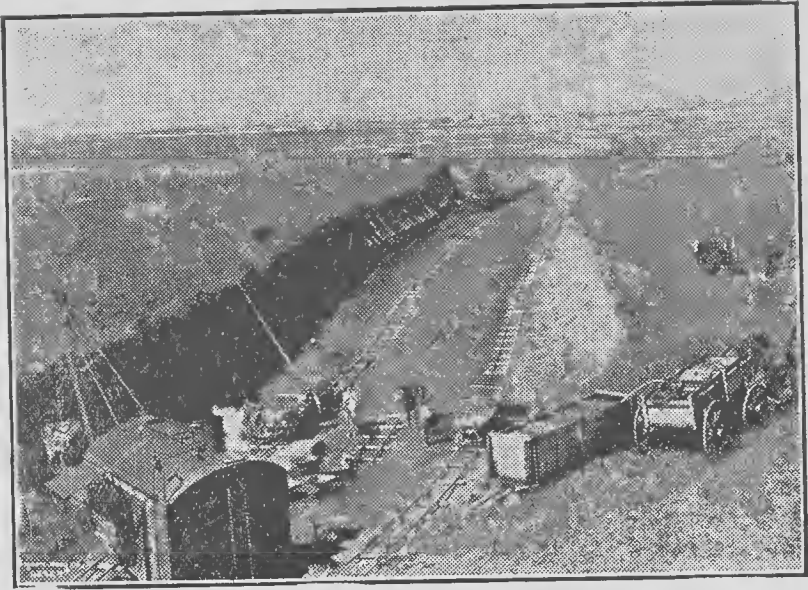
Potatoes are exceptionally safe crops, yielding readily with comparatively little cultivation anywhere from 300 to 500 bushels to the acre. They grow to great size and of very fine, clean, smooth appearance, and of fine boiling qualities when judgment is used in selection of soil and location.

It is probable that this district will produce more and better vegetables grown under ordinary conditions than any other section of the Dominion. Nowhere from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic, has the writer seen such cabbages, cauli-flowers, beets, carrots, peas, parsnips, celery, etc., as are commonly grown in the gardens here. Without in any way fertilizing or artificial watering, the marvellous fertile soil with ample rainfall and summer warmth, but without scorching heat, accomplish more than all the arts known to the Eastern market gardener.

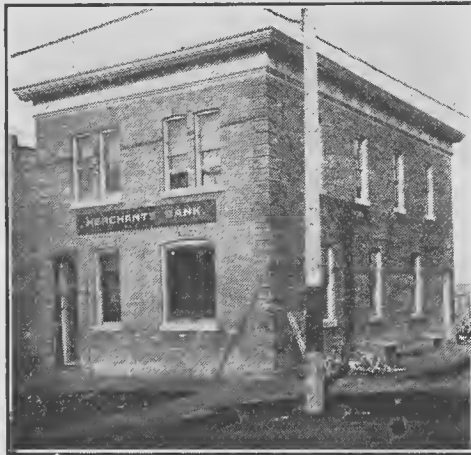
Though tree fruits have not been successfully raised in the Western Canadian Provinces, it has been amply demonstrated that all small fruits do exceptionally well in Central Alberta; raspberries, strawberries, black currants, and gooseberries grow in wild profusion throughout the district.



QUARRYING COAL AT TOFIELD



SCENE AT ONE OF TOFIELD'S COAL MINES



## MARKETS

One of the first things a farmer wants reliable information upon, having satisfied himself as to the soil and climate, is the prices that he may expect to get for his products. If he is interested in dairy farming, he naturally wants to know the average prices paid for cream and milk.

The following is a list of prices paid by the Tofield Creamery for the past eight months:—

August, 1912, Cream per lb, 28c; Sept., 30c; Oct., 35c; Nov., 35c; Dec., 38c. January, 1913, Cream per lb, 40c; Feb., 40c; Mar., 40c.

Milk at the present time is selling for \$2.40 per 100 lbs. The general opinion is, and everything points strongly to this, that prices for dairy products will still go a good deal higher, but the above are the regular prices actually paid to all the Creamery customers during the period given. Then we come to the ruling prices for dairy and beef cattle in this district. Milk cows and beef cattle are dear. This is not because they are especially scarce, but because of the great demand for cattle amongst the farmers themselves. Milk cows (ordinary) fetch from \$40.00 to \$60.00. Beef cattle at the present time are selling at 7c per lb. live weight, and for the past two years have not been below 5c per lb. There is always a good market for fat cows, in fact at no time of the year is it difficult to sell any class of beef cattle.

Another most important question in the farmers mind is that of feed. Hay is plentiful all over the country, and in many parts can be had for the cutting, so that should perchance a farmer not have enough on his own land, he has not far to go to get it. Should he have to buy it in the stack he can always get first class hay for from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per ton.

With hay so easily obtainable, and cattle, cream and milk given at the prices above, it should not be difficult for the reader to see the opportunity of making large profits.

Where a farmer has a few cows, and is selling his cream, he must almost of necessity keep a few hogs to consume the skim milk, which he would otherwise have no use for. Hogs do well here, and are free from all diseases. It is generally estimated that it does not cost more than about \$3.00 per cwt. to raise them. The market prices for the past few years have had an upward tendency and from 8c to 9c lb. live weight is about an average price. During the past few years the price has not fallen below 6c. There is always a ready market for hogs.

Poultry do well, and diseases are unknown among them. The demand always exceeds the supply, and when it is considered that feed grain can always be bought cheap, the farmer cannot make a mistake by going strongly into this industry.

It is difficult to give a very correct statement as to the prices paid for grain. Here, as in every part of the world, the prices fluctuate. It may be truthfully said, however, that prices in this part of Alberta have been, and are now, higher than many other districts further south.

As to land values, these vary very much according to their proximity to town, the amount of brush, hay land, improvements, etc. As a general statement, however, it may be said that the price ranges from \$10.00 per acre for partly open land with some improvements, from 5 to 10 miles out, to \$40.00 per acre for well improved land within a mile or so from Tofield. Values of farm lands are increasing yearly. Looking back over a period of ten years the average increase in value has been from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per acre, while land within two or three miles of rapidly growing towns and cities has advanced at a much greater rate.

That land values will yet advance considerably for several years to come is undoubted by any one who has watched the phenomenal developments of Central Alberta for the past few years, and this should not be lost sight of by anyone who may be considering the question of settling here, as, apart from the profits to be made from stock and grain raising, the yearly advance in the value of the farmers' land is a very important consideration.



ONE OF TOFIELD'S MANUFACTURING PLANTS

## SCHOOLS

Alberta possesses a splendid system of education under the control of the Provincial Government. All territory surrounding Tofield has been organized into school districts where pupils are provided with a good public school education.

In the town of Tofield there are five teachers, and in addition to the public school work a splendid course is given in the high school work.

## CHURCHES

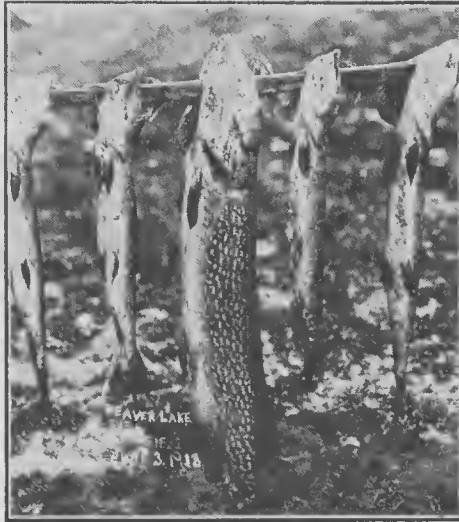
The several religious denominations have been established for some years, and services are held in the churches in the town and in a number of schoolhouses throughout the district.

The older and more important of the fraternal orders are established in Tofield and are in a prosperous condition.

Athletics are by no means neglected, there being baseball, football, tennis and hockey clubs, the long summer evenings being ideal for the first three.

Game abounds in this district, ducks, geese, partridge and prairie chicken being very plentiful. Deer are hunted in the hills a few miles west of the town.

Fishing and hunting give a wide range of sport.



I came up from East Kootenay, B. C. eight years ago, and took up a homestead 10 miles west of Tofield in the Beaver Hills. For stock raising this is a good part, there being always abundance of first class feed and water, and plenty of good hay can always be had for the winter. Cattle get in prime condition during the summer, fit for the butcher without any artificial feeding.

Dairying is carried on very successfully. There is always a good market for all produce at Tofield for local consumption, or for shipment.

Grain is grown of No. 1 quality, but little land around here at Spilsted being cultivated owing to the abundance of feed around, but what little is cultivated returns good crops of No. 1 quality. The vegetables are No. 1 quality, and would require a lot of beating. I am,

Yours truly,

CHARLES SPILSTED.

Mr. Younie,  
Sect'y Tofield Industrial League,

Dear Sir:—

We came to Western Canada in 1907 from Oklohomah, first locating in Camrose, later coming to the Tofield district. Have followed mixed farming and stock raising, and find same very profitable and successful. Our cattle are raised with practically no expenses, feeding on the luxuriant growth of wild vegetation and grasses which abound throughout the district. We find that our cows easily pay for themselves each year in milk, cream and butter. We have had excellent results raising hogs, which do well and are always in great demand at good prices. Garden stuff and root crops of all kinds do fine every year, while irrigation is unthought of in this district. Poultry does well and is a good paying industry. In fact we think there is no place can beat this for mixed farming and stock raising. We like the climate, we like the soil, we like the people, and above all we have excellent health here.

A. W. YAGER,

N.E. Sec. 36 T. 50, R. 20. w4.

Tofield Industrial League,  
Tofield, Alberta.

Dear Sir:—

We have been raising vegetables here in Alberta for the past ten years, and have not yet had a failure. Potatoes will do very well on sod, but like the rest of roots, do much better on older land, where they will yield from 200 to 350 bushels to the acre.

We raise more cabbage than other truck as it is always in demand, and will grow to a large size, often weighing as much as 25 lbs.

Carrots, beets and turnips do well and so far we have not been troubled with insects or potato beetles.

Parsnips do exceedingly well on broken-up brush land.

Celery does fine here, and if one could market it all in the fall it would be a good crop to raise, but if kept into the winter one needs a special cellar for it.

Peas are great croppers, and corn will mature enough for cooking purposes most years.

Tomatoes seldom ripen except under glass.

I have never figured out how much to the acre we can raise of carrots, etc., as we put every thing 3 feet apart, where usually 18 inches is sufficient.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN L. GREY.

Sect'y Tofield Industrial League,  
Tofield, Alta.

## **SOME GOOD REASONS YOU SHOULD COME TO TOFIELD DISTRICT**

Tofield has tributary to it a larger amount of good land for farming than any other town between Winnipeg and Edmonton.

It is the trade center of the farmers of the Beaver Hills country, one of the richest mixed farming sections in Western Canada.

It is near Beaver Hills Lake, an ideal summer resort.

It is on the mainline of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway 750 miles west of Winnipeg and 41 miles east of Edmonton.

It is at the head of the Tofield-Calgary branch of the G.T.P. one of the most important branches of the entire system, and the only branch south from main line in Alberta.

It has a large area of coal land, three working mines giving employment to a large force of men.

It has fire clay, and brick clay, and cheap fuel, and the manufacture of brick and other clay products promises to become an important industry here.

Having cheap fuel, such as coal, and natural gas, together with good transportation, abundance of water, promise to make it an important manufacturing centre.

**For further information apply to**

**Secretary of Tofield Industrial League**



